Ashley Morissette

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Reflection 2

Due: 9/20/11

Literature review is important because it allows an action researcher to know what statements have been made regarding their topic, what data has been collected, and to see how theorists and practitioners have viewed their topic. Literature review forces a researcher to examine evidence and prior research with an unbiased viewpoint. It is simply seeing what research has already been done on your topic, and stating what you have found without invoking an opinion.

Differentiating between types of journals is important in determining the most reliable resource. If you are able to determine that an article is peer reviewed or blind refereed, then you know you are getting information from a very reliable source and that information will be valid and supported by many other practitioners in that particular field.

Literature reviews are also important because it can help a researcher decide if there is a need for intervention. If there is a plethora on information regarding a single topic, and your predicted outcome has been collected, then perhaps that topic has been covered well enough that additional research is unnecessary.

In addition, literature reviews also may help an action researcher determining a hypothesis of their own. By seeing what other information practitioners have found and written about, a person doing action research may be persuaded by their argument and find that their initial hypothesis is no longer valid. Also, an action researcher may come across an instructional strategy that may influence how they want to implement an intervention. By presenting a literature review, an action researcher is also seeing the topic from different points of view. Whether or not, they agree with both sides of an argument, they are forced to examine what experts in the field have to say and may even view their topic in a different light.